

MOUNTAIN AGRICULTURE

Conducted by Mr. Robert F. Spence, Farm Demonstrator and Special Investigator

FARMERS' WEEK

January 4, 5, 6, 7, 1916

My Farmer Friends: You can't afford to miss Farmers' week in Lexington. This is where you hear and see big things along the line of farming. You will meet Kentucky's best farmers, breeders, and fruit growers in the convention.

I am glad to say that some of our Farmers' Clubs are going to send some of their members to this meeting. It will certainly pay.

You perhaps have been thinking what would be nice for your wife for Christmas. Just take her to the Farmers' Week in Lexington. She'll appreciate this more than anything you can do for her. This is going to be a big week for the Home Makers, and if you take your wife along she'll make a better home for you all the rest of your life.

If you desire more information concerning the Farmers' Week call on your county agent or write T. R. Bryant at Lexington.

BETTER FRUIT FOR EAST KENTUCKY

Berea, Ky., Dec. 22, 1915.
Mr. Robert F. Spence,
Berea.

Dear Friend Spence:

Allow me, will you not, to congratulate you on the splendid work you are doing among the farmers of our section. More live stock, more money, better food and happier homes bear testimony of your remarkable success as a farm demonstrator.

The one thing that every community in eastern Kentucky needs most is an efficient Christian leader, like you, who can really lead in progressive movements. Today, as never before, we are improving our schools, churches, and homes. Our social, moral and religious standards also are being raised to a higher plane. But much is still neglected.

No important industry, perhaps, is more shamefully neglected than scientific fruit growing. And so I am writing you on that subject trusting that we may awaken many farmers to their possibilities along the line of fruit culture.

The eastern part of our State is peculiarly adapted to fruit growing. The soil as a rule is fertile. Nature has covered our hills with forests and, in springtime fills our valleys with dense fogs which serve as a protection to orchards. In fact climatic conditions in general are such as to insure a bountiful harvest if our farmers would only awaken to their possibilities along the line of fruit culture.

But Mr. Spence, how do you find the fruit conditions among our farmers? For months I sold fruit trees in eastern Kentucky, and I found that not more than twenty per cent of our farmers make even the first step towards fruit raising. And most of these made simply the first step, that is, they bought the trees of me, set them out and then went off and left them uncultivated, unpruned and in every way unkept. As a result we find very little fruit in our part of the State and as a rule that is of the very poorest quality.

With this state of affairs we find

our wealthiest and most successful farmers regarding fruit, which is the oldest and most natural food of man, not a necessity but a kind of luxury. This situation is deplorable! The carelessness of our people in this regard cannot be excused in the light of present day intelligence. Any farmer who can read and most every one is able to do that can obtain all the necessary information, pertaining to fruit raising, in any good fruit magazine. Or for the sum of one dollar he can buy a book with full information and directions for successful fruit growing. Or better still, he can obtain, free of charge, from the State agricultural experiment station or from the United States Department of Agriculture bulletins gotten out by experts pertaining to fruit culture.

Most of our mountain land, fertile though it may once have been, has been so overcropped these past few years with corn and other staples that it has almost reached its limit in production. This land carefully planted in orchard could be made to produce both in food and money the very largest return. For a few moments let us look at a successful case of scientific fruit growing.

I am told that a progressive farmer near here took three acres of apple trees. This orchard land he plowed breaking up the soil which had been undisturbed for years. Then he pruned his trees and sprayed them twice with a mixture of sulphate lime; sowed rye for a winter cover crop. In the spring he again sprayed his trees twice more, bought 60 smudge pots (these are small vessels made of sheet-iron, in which to burn crude oil for the purpose of preventing frosts). The cost of these vessels was \$12, and of the spray mixture \$7. The first year his harvest was abundant and when he had sold his fruit and paid all expenses counting the cultivation of the land, the pruning and spraying of the trees and the picking and marketing of the fruit he had a net profit of more than a thousand dollars.

This example is not taken from an extreme case but it can be duplicated in hundreds of cases by the people of eastern Kentucky. And what has been done with the apple, in this case, can be accomplished with the peach, the plum, the pear, the grape, in fact most any kind of fruit.

Let every young man who expects to become a leader in this community take it upon himself to introduce scientific fruit growing among his neighbors. Teach them not to spend their time loitering about the store or postoffice discussing the Civil War or the possibility of a railroad coming thru the county within the next twenty or thirty years. But teach them to become interested in such movements as will better the economic conditions of this community. Nothing, to my mind, would contribute more toward this end than would a wise and intelligent introduction of extensive fruit growing among the farmers of eastern Kentucky.

Sincerely yours,
Edward Cook.

A Christmas Carol

By CHRISTINA G. ROSSETTI

Lo, newborn Jesus,
Soft and weak and small,
Wrapped in baby's bands
By his mother's hands,
Lord God of all!

Lord God of Mary,
Whom his lips caress
While he rocks to rest
On her milky breast
In helplessness.

Lord God of shepherds
Flocking through the cold,
Flocking through the dark
To the only ark,
The only fold.

Lord God of all things,
Be they near or far,
Be they high or low,
Lord of storm and snow,
Angel and star.

Lord God of all men,
My Lord and my God,
Thou who lovest me,
Keep me close to thee
By staff and rod.

Lo, newborn Jesus,
Loving great and small,
Love's free sacrifice,
Opening arms and eyes
To one and all!

Christmas Near The North Pole

A JOVIAL Christmas was that spent by Admiral Peary on his last expedition to the Arctic, from which he returned with the report of the discovery of the north pole. At Cape York, Greenland, the Roosevelt picked up Eskimos and dogs and by way of Etah and Cape Sheridan made her way to Grant Land, where she had to halt in the ice locked waters of the Arctic ocean, only 600 miles from the pole, when Christmas day came. The story of the party's celebration of this Christmas, one of the "farthest north" ever enjoyed by white men, was told interestingly by the explorer when he returned to the United States.

"It was not very cold," wrote Peary, "only minus 23 degrees F. In the morning we greeted each other with the 'Merry Christmas' of civilization. At breakfast we all had letters from home and Christmas presents which had been kept unopened. MacMillan was master of ceremonies and arranged the program of sports. At 2 o'clock there were races on the ice foot. A seventy-five yard course was laid out, and the ship's lanterns, about fifty of them, were arranged in two parallel rows twenty feet apart. These lanterns are similar to a railway brakeman's lantern, only larger. It was a strange sight—that illuminated race course within 7½ degrees of the earth's end.

"The first race was for Eskimo children, the second for Eskimo men, the third for Eskimo matrons with babies in their hoods, the fourth for unencumbered women. There were four entries for the matrons' race, and no one could have guessed from watching them that it was a running race. They came along four abreast, dressed in furs, their eyes rolling, puffing like four excited walruses, their babies in their hoods gazing with wide and half bewildered eyes at the glittering lanterns. There was no question of cruelty to children, as the mothers were not moving fast enough to spill their babies. Then there were races for the



"AT BREAKFAST WE ALL HAD LETTERS FROM HOME."

ship's men and the members of the expedition and a tug-of-war between the men aft and forward.

"Nature herself participated in our Christmas celebrations by providing an aurora of considerable brilliancy. While the races on the ice foot were in progress the northern sky was filled with streamers and lances of pale white light.

"Between the races and the dinner hour, which was at 4 o'clock, I gave a concert on the piano in my cabin, choosing the merriest music in the rack. Then we separated to dress for dinner. This ceremony consisted of putting on clean flannel shirts and neckties. The doctor was even so ambitious as to don a linen collar.

"Percy, the steward, wore a chef's cap and a large white apron in honor of the occasion, and he laid the table with a fine linen cloth and our best silver. The wall of the mess room was decorated with the American flag. We had musk ox meat, an English plum pudding, sponge cake covered with chocolate, and at each place was a package containing nuts, cake and candies, with a card attached, 'Merry Christmas From Mrs. Peary.'

"After dinner came the dice throwing contests and the wrestling and pelling contests in the fo'castle. The celebration ended with a phonograph concert given by Percy.

"But perhaps the most interesting part of our day was the distribution of prizes to the winners in the various contests. In order to afford a study in Eskimo psychology there was in each case a choice between prizes. Tookoomah, for instance, who won in the women's race, had a choice between three prizes—a box of three cakes of scented soap, a sewing outfit containing a paper of needles, two or three thimbles and several spools of different sized thread and a round cake covered with sugar and candy. The woman did not hesitate. She had one eye perhaps on the sewing outfit, but both hands and the other eye were directed toward the soap. She knew what it was meant for. The meaning of cleanliness had dawned upon her—a sudden ambition to be attractive."

New York Tribune.

CONGRESSMEN GROWING MODEST

Few Glowing Accounts Appear in Autobiographies.

INITIATING NEW MEMBERS.

Those Serving Their First Terms Are Fast Getting Their Bearings and Learning How the Nation's Laws Are Made—Meeting the "Big Men" of the Capital Is Important For Them.

While the veteran members of congress are busy getting their bills in shape for presentation and running the house and senate, the new members are getting their bearings, learning how business is transacted and meeting the "big men" of Washington. There are many things for the new men to learn, and they know that the best thing to do is to make friends with the men who have the "pull" and who can be of untold benefit to them in their work.

There are a great many new members of this congress who first told of themselves in their autobiographies. The book, however, is less interesting this year, as it seems that the people have elected a very modest set of lawmakers.

Senator Henry Alderson du Pont of Delaware again uses the most space in the directory. It requires fifty-six closely printed lines to review the war record of the Delaware solon.

Congressman Charles Lindbergh of Minnesota and Thaddeus Caraway of Arkansas compete for brevity. Each uses less than one line. Mr. Lindbergh describing himself merely as "Republican, of Little Falls," and Mr. Caraway "Democrat, of Jonesboro."

Senator James D. Phelan of California qualifies as a member of many clubs and asserts also that he belongs to the Society of California Pioneers and is president of the Hall Association of the Native Sons of the Golden West.

With national defense as an issue in this congress, Congressman P. Davis Oakley of Connecticut is one of many members to record that he served with the national guard.

Congressman William Baker Oliver, a new Democrat from Alabama, admits that as prosecuting attorney he "attained the highest percentage of convictions in the state."

Charles Hiram Randall, Prohibitionist, of Los Angeles, Cal., calls attention to the fact that a member of the Randall family wrote "Maryland, My Maryland."

Congressman Frank Park of Georgia uses but one more word than Messrs. Lindbergh and Caraway. He names his state as well as town.

Robert M. McCracken, a new member from Iowa, says he went west from Indiana when a lad, "to grow up with the country."

Uncle Joe Elected Twenty Times.

Uncle Joe Cannon's biography is a simple recital of his election to twenty congresses and the fact that he is a lawyer.

Harry E. Hull, Republican, of Iowa says he had only ten days to make his campaign to succeed the late Mr. Pepper and that he "made a run that was accepted by the whole country as proof of how the farmers would vote and of the weakness of the Progressive cause."

David H. Kincheloe of Madisonville, Ky., proudly says he is married and "has one girl, now seven and one-half months old."

Whitcomb Pugh Martin labels himself a "progressive protectionist" from Louisiana and adds that he is the first non-Democratic member to be elected from that state in twenty-five years.

A note of tragedy is contained in the brief autobiography of Congressman Thomas D. Schall of Minnesota, who says he lost his eyesight because of an electric shock in 1907, but has continued in the practice of law. The Sixty-fourth congress has two blind members—Senator Gore of Oklahoma and Mr. Schall.

Edward H. Wason of New Hampshire is one of the many farmers listed in the directory. He asserts that he takes a pride in farming and "has a large herd of registered Guernsey cattle and a modern, up to date farm."

Frederick W. Rowe, a new member from Brooklyn, lists many civic organizations with which he is affiliated and further explains that he is "superintendent of St. Paul's Sunday school."

It appears that Congressman Temple of Pennsylvania, re-elected, is the only minister among the house members. William Barclay Charles of Amsterdam, N. Y., records that he is a member of the Second Presbyterian church of that city.

WATER STRAIGHT \$1 BARREL.

Fifteen Cents a Bucket Price in New Alaska Town.

As a result of cold weather water is selling at \$1 a barrel at Anchorage, a new town established by the government as construction headquarters for the Alaskan railroad. If purchased by the bucket the price is 15 cents or two buckets for a quarter.

Pending the completion of the water system, which the government engineers hope to have working soon, all water for domestic purposes is taken from holes chopped in the ice.

HE STARTED WORLD WIDE DEBATE.



Dr. H. J. Halseiden of Chicago, who wouldn't operate on deformed infant, thereby permitting it to die rather than live a useless, dependent being.

The DAIRY



START TRAINING BULL EARLY

Inserting Nose Ring Is Simple and Short Operation—Composition Metal Does Not Rust.

A bull's training must be started early. A light weight ring should be inserted in his nose when he is from nine to twelve months old, but under no circumstances should he be led by the ring until three or four months after so that the nose can heal up well.

Inserting the nose ring is a simple and short operation when properly done. First tie the bull securely to a post by the head and horns, then take a common trocar and cannula, well sterilized, and push it through the thinnest part of the membrane that separates the nostrils, withdraw the trocar, leaving the cannula in the opening. Put one end of the opened ring in the pointed end of the cannula and then carefully withdraw cannula, which brings the ring into the opening and after closing ring and putting in the screw, the job is done. Before the operation, the ring should be examined and all rough edges carefully filed down so there is nothing to irritate the nose and keep it raw and bleeding.



A Shorthorn Bull.

When the animal is about two to two and one-half years old, the light ring should be removed and a good heavy ring inserted. Iron rings should not be used as they rust and keep the bull's nose raw and sore. The best are made of brass or bronze composition metal and do not rust.

In tying up the bull by the nose, one should be careful to avoid frightening him, causing him to jump back and tilt the ring out of his nose. It is safest to pass the tie chain through the nose ring and then up and around his horns and when he jerks back most of the strain comes on the horns and not at the nose.

PROPER TOOLS FOR DAIRYING

Manure Spreader Is One of Most Profitable Implements—Silo Is Regarded as Essential.

It is impossible to give a specific answer to the question as to what tools a dairyman should possess. Much depends upon a man's pocketbook and the possibility of his changing work with neighbors to get the use of their tools, and upon labor conditions in general. For instance, a manure spreader is one of the most profitable implements for a farmer with any amount of dressing to distribute. Yet it is possible to handle the manure in the old way if a man simply cannot buy a spreader.

If you are dairying you ought to have a silo, and that means a silage cutter and an engine, unless you can arrange with a neighbor to do the work. If you raise potatoes in any quantity a planter, sprayer, and surely a digger, will perform the work most economically. Yet it is possible to get along without these. Of course, you would not expect to compete very successfully with growers who have such improved machinery. This class of tools is in use only a portion of the year, and it ties-up your capital to your disadvantage if you have but little to begin with. There are certain things that every farmer is expected to have, such as wagons, plows, harrows, mowing machine, hayrake, etc.

FEED CALVES IN STANCHIONS

Discourages Desire to Suck One Another's Ears—Wooden Device Is Entirely Satisfactory.

There are several good reasons for feeding calves in stanchions. The calves can be fed their milk, then their grain, and after they have eaten the grain they will lose their desire to suck one another's ears. A stanchion made of wood will be entirely satisfactory. It should be made from 3 to 3½ feet high and 18 to 24 inches from center to center, with the neck space 4 to 5 inches wide. It is built in the same manner as the old style rigid stanchion. The calf should be fastened while eating, but loosened from the stanchions after it has eaten its grain. The calf pens and stanchions should be built in the south side of the barn, where plenty of sunshine and light can be had. There is no disinfectant that will take the place of sunshine.

CINCINNATI MARKETS

Wheat—No. 2 red \$1.22@1.24, No. 3 \$1.19@1.21, No. 4 \$1.10@1.16.

Corn—No. 1 white 72c, No. 2 white 71¢72c, No. 1 yellow 72½c, No. 2 yellow 71½¢72½c, No. 1 mixed 72c, No. 2 mixed 71¢72c.

Oats—No. 2 white 45¢46c, standard white 44¢44½c, No. 3 white 42½¢43c, No. 4 white 40¢41c, No. 2 mixed 42½¢43c, No. 3 mixed 41½¢42½c, No. 4 mixed 39¢41c.

Hay—No. 1 timothy \$18.50, No. 2 \$16.50, No. 3 \$14.50, No. 1 clover mixed \$15.50, No. 2 \$13.50, No. 1 clover \$14.50, No. 2 \$12.50.

Eggs—Prime firsts 33c, firsts 32c, ordinary first 24c, seconds 22c.

Poultry—Broilers, 2 lbs and under, 13c; fryers, over 2 lbs, 12c; roasting chickens, 4 lbs and over, 13½c; fowls, 5 lbs and over, 12½c; under 5 lbs, 11½c; under 3½ lbs, 10c; roosters, 9c; ducks, white, 3 lbs and over, 16c; under 3 lbs, 15c; colored, 13½¢14½c; hen turkeys, 8 lbs and over, 21c; young turkeys, 10 lbs and over, 21c; old turkeys, 10 lbs and over, 18c.

Cattle—Shippers \$6@7; butcher steers, extra \$7.35@7.75, good to choice \$6.25@7.25, common to fair \$4.50@6; heifers, extra \$6.75@7, good to choice \$6@6.65, common to fair \$4.50@5.75; cows, extra \$5.50@5.75, good to choice \$4.50@5.35, common to fair \$3@4.50, canners \$3@4, stockers and feeders \$4@6.75.

Bulls—Bologna \$5@5.75, fat bulls \$5.75@6.25.

Calves—Extra \$9@9.25, fair to good \$6@9, common and large \$3.50@8.75.

Hogs—Selected heavy shippers (240 lbs and up) \$6.70@6.75, good to choice packers and butchers \$6.65@6.70, mixed packers \$6.40@6.65, stage \$4@5, common to choice heavy fat sows \$5@6.30, select medium (160 to 180 lbs) \$6.45@6.65, light shippers \$6.15@6.40, pigs (110 lbs and less) \$3.85@5.85.

Sheep—Extra \$5.75@6, good to choice \$5@5.65, common to fair \$3@4.90.

Lambs—Extra \$9.50, good to choice \$8.25@9.40, common to fair \$6@8, culls \$5.75.

Heard at the Hay Baler. "A good laugh is sunshine in the home," remarked the proverb dispenser. "Yes," rejoined the hopeless idiot, "but at that it isn't as stable as a horse laugh. What?"

All About The Legislature

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